



Three Forks Fly-In Great Success

The 29th annual Three Forks Fly-In was held August 2-4 at Progreba Field in Three Forks. Pilots start arriving on Thursday, in time for Bud Hall's and Neil and Karen Salmi's annual taco and burrito feast! "Harold" the Hamm's Beer Truck was presented to Zola Hamm in memory of Harold. The mail truck was given a complete restoration by Bud Hall, Steve Kleimer, Alan Drain, and Dennis Mecklenberg. Kip Kapenos of Signs and Designs of Bozeman donated all of the vinyl lettering. Evert Wierda donated the use of his hangar for the project. Bob and Linda Marshall donated the mail truck to MAAA. The truck is now painted Cub yellow with the lighting bolt stripe. The money received in Harold's memory was used to restore the truck. Zola even kissed "Harold"!

There were over a 100 planes on the field through out the three day event. Breakfast and lunch was provided by the Three Forks Boy Scouts and Friday and Saturday night dinners were provided by MAAA with Bob and Pat Green and their crew doing the cooking and serving. Paul Ray provided dancing music on both Friday and Saturday. A huge "Thank You" to the Helena Tower crew for their great job of directing air traffic and to Erin Wass, of Arlin's, for keeping all the planes fueled up and to Garfield Jermunson for keeping "Harold" full of liquid refreshments.

The Wilsall breakfast, hosted by Steve and Cindy Kleimer and Alan and Amy Drain, was a great success. There were 121 people who enjoyed a great pancake breakfast

MAAA's 2007 scholarship winner, Allison Gollehon and her Dad, were on hand for Saturday's festivities. Allison was lucky enough to receive airplane rides from Hank Galpin in his Travel Air, Evert Wierda in his T-6 and many others. She never quit smiling!

Awards were given out on Saturday evening. They went to the following: Best Antique, Tim Linn, 1952 Cessna 195; Best Classic, Ron & Caroline Chapel, 1950 Piper Commanche PA-24; Best WarBird, Evert & Jamee Wierda, 1946 T-6 Texan; Best Experimental, Bob & Mary Sue Patrick, 2005 Waco Tapper wing; People's Choice, Neil Salmi, Rans S-7LS; Judge's Choice, Harold Hamm's Beer Truck, Restored by: Steve Kleimer, Bud Hall, Alan Drain, Dennis Mecklenberg, Kip Kapenos, Evert Wierda; Oldest Pilot, James Fisher of



"Harold" the Hamm's beer truck was presented to Zola Hamm in memory of Harold whose presence is truly missed at the Three Forks Fly-In. Pictured is the restoration crew with Zola (l-r) Steve Kleimer, Alan Drain, Zola Hamm, Bud Hall and Dennis Mecklenberg.



The Helena Tower Crew (l-r) Paul Andrus, Erin Schmidt and Sarnen Steinbarth.

Administrator's Column

Congratulations: to Teri Norcross (belated) and Cris Jensen who each earned the Accredited Airport Executive designation recently. Teri completed her exam this past summer and Cris earlier this month. This prestigious designation is earned by AAAE members after completing a written exam, writing requirement and final oral exam. Since 1928, the American Association of Airport Executives has been devoted to the interests of the individual in airport management, as well as the advancement of the profession for the benefit of aviation. In 1954, executive members became the nucleus of the present association. Since then, subsequent admissions to executive status have been by examination only. Way to go you two!

Continuing Resolution: Congress has approved a temporary extension of the current FAA reauthorization legislation and related aviation excise and fuel taxes. Congress now has until November 16 to reach an agreement on a new reauthorization bill. The House of Representatives passed H.R. 2881 its reauthorization act of 2007 and the Senate Finance Committee significantly changed tax provisions in S. 1300 to more aligned with the House bill and friendlier to general aviation and airports. Stay tuned as Congress hammers out the details in conference committee.

FAA Airports Seminar: The Helena Airports District Office recently held its annual seminar in Whitefish to coincide with the Northwest Chapter of the American Association of Airport Executives Annual Conference. Thanks to Dave Stelling and his staff at the ADO office (John, Gary and Maureen) for conducting an educational program and discussion. Donna Taylor, Manager, Airports Division, FAA Northwest Mountain Region was also present and provided valuable information from the region perspective.

Airline Delays: The White House ordered transportation officials to work with airline executives to reduce delays in the nation's overcrowded airspaces, beginning in New York. White House officials are considering capping the number of flights and allowing airports to charge higher fees to airlines for landing at the busiest times of the day. One-third of the nation's air traffic passes through the New York region, and three-fourths of the chronic delays around the country can be traced to delays in New York. If you've traveled lately, you've probably noticed that delays are being felt nationwide.

Passport reminder: Remember those rules requiring a passport to fly back from Canada and Mexico that were delayed when passport offices were flooded with applications earlier this year? Well, those rules are back today, and this time, apparently, there are no more delays. The Bush administration pushed back the deadline more than eight months as the State Department failed to predict was how quickly American citizens would choose to apply for a passport in recognition of the new law. From now on passengers traveling to Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean or Bermuda must have a valid passport. To obtain a passport go to:
www.travel.state.gov/passport

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Three Forks Fly-In continued

Garrison, North Dakota; Hard Luck, Kevin Haggerty; Flew the longest distance, Tom Cedarblade, 936 Miles from Show Low, AZ.

President awards were given out by Bud Hall for outstanding service to MAAA. These awards went to the following: Jim Soares; Mary Kasner; Alan Drain; Kevin Haggerty; Steve and Cindy Kleimer.

Three Forks was a great success thanks to the pilots and general public that support it each year. Hope to see everyone again next year, as it is the 30th year of the fly-in.



Calendar

October 20 – EAA Breakfast at Stevensville Airport. For further information contact Steve Rossiter at steverossitermt@aol.com.

October 21 – Rocky Mountain College Aviation Program Open House for prospective students and parents. 8:45 a.m. to noon. Call (406) 657-1060 to make reservations.

January 18-20, 2008 – Winter Survival Clinic, Helena. For further information contact Jeanne MacPherson at (406) 444-2506, email jemacpherson@mt.gov.

January 26, 2008 – Rocky Mountain College Aviation Program Open House for prospective students and parents. 8:45 a.m. to noon. Call (406) 657-1060 to make reservations.

February 8-9, 2008 – Flight Instructor Refresher Clinic, Wingate Inn, Helena. For further information contact Jeanne MacPherson at (406) 444-2506, email jemacpherson@mt.gov.

February 28 – March 1, 2008 – Montana Aviation Conference, Heritage Inn Great Falls. For further information phone (406) 444-2506.

March 15, 2008 – Rocky Mountain College Aviation Program Open House for prospective students and parents. 8:45 a.m. to noon. Call (406) 657-1060 to make reservations.

EAA Chapter 344 Hosts Airport Day



Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) Chapter 344 hosted their annual Young Eagles Fly-in and Pancake breakfast Saturday, October 6 from 8:00 a.m. to noon at Helena Aircraft. For a brisk October morning, the EAA chapter had a good turn out of both volunteers and young eagles eager to take their first flights! Pictured above Marlin Sanders, a member of the EAA Chapter 344 is giving cockpit orientation to two young eagles.

Jeanne MacPherson, a young eagle pilot and member of EAA Chapter 344 and Sleeping Giant Flying Club, is getting ready to take Kyleigh Driscoll of Helena on her first flight. Kyleigh has wanted to be a pilot since she was three years old. Kyleigh and her family have traveled to air shows throughout the northwest to further fuel this young eagle's flight passion!



Division Hosts 29th Annual Mountain Search Pilot Clinic

By: Jeanne MacPherson, Bureau Chief, Safety & Education

On September 7, 8 and 9, volunteer pilots gathered at the MDT Aeronautics Division in Helena to participate in the greatly praised mountain search pilot clinic. The intention of this clinic is to train volunteer pilots to safely and efficiently conduct a search for a downed aircraft in mountainous terrain. Not only do the 30 volunteer pilots learn the search techniques, they also receive advanced Emergency Locator ground and field training and survival tactics from the Emergency Response International (ERI).

The mountain flight instructors for this year's clinic were, Rick Burger, Wendy Bye, Mike Campbell, Dennis DeVivio, Art Dykstra and Jeanne MacPherson. Each of the 30 pilots attending received two hours of flight instruction, one hour each from a different instructor. The dual flight instruction covered the basics of mountain flying including, coordination maneuvers, canyon flying, contour search, marking the location of the downed aircraft, canyon turns and over the top and down air search techniques.

An essential part of search and rescue is the Search and Rescue Satellite Aided Tracking (SARSAT) System and detecting and locating emergency locator beacon transmitters (ELT), to lead and instruct this year's SARSAT/ELT training both in ground school and field tracking were Peter Graf, Ray Sanders and Hugh Wilkins.

The clinic would not be complete without "survival sense for pilots". We were most fortunate to have survival expert and instructor, Skip Stoffel, from the Emergency Response Institute (ERI), Skip always brings quality to the clinic by incorporating hands on survival skills to the learning environment.

The evening programs included: Montana air search responsibility, Jeanne MacPherson, Aircraft operations and air search techniques, Rick Burger, Mountain flying weather, Art Dykstra, Density altitude and the Observer program, Jeanne MacPherson. The MSPC qualified for the FAA's mountain flying wings program.

Next year, MSPC will be held in Helena on September 5- 7, 2008, if you are interested in participating and have any questions, please feel free to contact Jeanne MacPherson at (406) 444-2506 or jemacpherson@mt.gov.

Thank you to all of the 2007 MSPC participants!



Pictured are Mountain Search Flight Instructors (l-r) Mike Campbell, Rick Burger, Wendy Bye, Jeanne MacPherson, Art Dykstra, Dennis DeVivio.



ELT experts and Instructors (l-r) Peter Graf, Hugh Wilkins and Ray Sanders.



Is that an orange Halloween ghost? No, it is Skip Stoffel, survival instructor, in his survival garbage bag at Mountain Search Pilot Clinic.

ABS Convention a Learning Experience

By: Ken Wilhlem, MDT Aeronautics Division

Last month I attended the annual convention for the American Bonanza Society (ABS) in Wichita Kansas. The conference offered concurrent educational seminars in Flight Operations, Maintenance, The Ownership Experience, Product-specific, and Companion Programs. I was able to attend several seminars on Bonanza maintenance, repair, and upkeep, as well as speak to people about their planes and experiences.

Several anniversaries were celebrated during the convention – Beechcraft's 75th, Bonanza's 60th, ABS's 40th, and the ABS headquarters building's 25th. To commemorate the anniversaries the Hawker Beechcraft factory was open for tours. A personal highlight was the Bonanza assembly line, which still uses the same over center dimension jig for the landing gear lift leg that was used on the first Bonanza 60 years ago. The flight line had 346 Bonanza, Debonair, and Baron aircraft parked by conference attendees. The Premier and King Air assembly lines brought back memories of my days spent working for Boeing.

Evenings were filled with entertainment. A BBQ was held at the ABS headquarters where a new G-36 was on display and a steel drum band performed. A buffet and auction were held in the trade show area. The Beechcraft paint hangar hosted a dinner and dance featuring a band called The Sons of Beech. Beechcraft was nice enough to move the planes out of the hangar for the function. I'm sure they didn't want a bunch of general aviation pilots poking around their Premiers and King Airs prior to delivery!

An awards banquet featured aviation legend Barry Schiff as the keynote speaker. Mr. Schiff shared his adventures in secretly obtaining his pilot's license, flying for four commercial airlines, and flying in foreign countries. Jon Luy, ABS President, presented Bob Olson, ABS Service Clinic Inspector, with the "Above and Beyond" award for performing over 2,000 Bonanza inspections at ABS service clinics. Way to go Bob!

All in all, it was a great convention. I learned a lot from the seminars, and thoroughly enjoyed the tours and entertainment. I recommend you attend an ABS convention if you own or maintain a Bonanza. If I had it to do all over again I would beg, borrow, or steal a Bonanza to fly there in!



The Bonanza assembly line in Plant II at the Hawker Beechcraft factory.

Air Traffic Controllers Retire

Pilots that fly into and out of Helena Regional Airport (HLN) will miss two well known voices from the Helena Air Traffic Control Tower, both, Dave Mason and Paul Mousseau, recently retired from their positions as air traffic controllers. Pilots can be confident in knowing that there is still an abundance of experience remaining at the Helena Air Traffic Control Tower; in fact, there is 138 years of remaining air traffic experience in the Helena Tower!

In honor of their 51 years of air traffic control services the Federal Aviation Administration will be naming instrument fixes in the Helena IFR environment after both Dave Mason and Paul Mousseau.

We at MDT Aeronautics Division and the pilots that fly into and out of Helena Regional Airport will miss Dave and Paul.

Thank you, Dave and Paul, for your many years of service!



"Big Paul" Paul Mousseau and Dave Mason share a story or two at Paul's retirement party at Vetter Aviation in Helena.

Scholarship Opportunities

Montana is very fortunate to have many generous individuals and organizations that believe in promoting aviation by offering monetary assistance to qualified persons. The Aeronautics Division assists in administering some of these scholarships and encourages participation. The scholarships are offered to a Montanan to help defray costs of education (i.e., flight instruction, A&P, ect.) and will be presented during the 2008 Montana Aviation Conference in Great Falls. Awarding of the scholarships will be based on a letter explaining the reasons for applying, future career goals, past aviation experience, if any, and any outstanding achievements. **The same letter can be submitted but applicant must submit one copy addressed to each individual scholarship they are applying for.** Letters of application **must** include a **mailing address, daytime phone number and photograph**. If you are selected to receive one of the scholarships your photo will appear in the 2008 Montana Aviation Conference Program. Letters should be mailed to: Montana Aeronautics Division, PO Box 200507, Helena, MT 59620-0507 or call (406) 444-2506 for further information. **Letters must be postmarked on or before January 11, 2008.**

Harold Hamm Scholarship – Harold and Zola Hamm were the anonymous donors that established the first \$250 A Love of Aviation (ALOA) Scholarship in 1993. With the passing of Harold on September 1, 2006, Zola decided to rename the scholarship the “Harold Hamm Scholarship” in honor of her husband of 19 years. Harold had an extremely strong passion for aviation. Together he and Zola completed two airplane projects: the restoration of a J-3 Piper Cub, and an experimental RV-6 aircraft.

A Love of Aviation (ALOA) Scholarship – An anonymous donor established this scholarship of \$250 in 1997.

Morrison Aviation Appreciation Scholarship – Jeff Morrison, retired former owner of Morrison Flying Service in Helena has established the \$500 scholarship as a token of appreciation to the aviation community.

Montana Antique Aircraft Association (MAAA) Scholarship – MAAA offers this \$500 scholarship to help defray the costs of flight instruction.

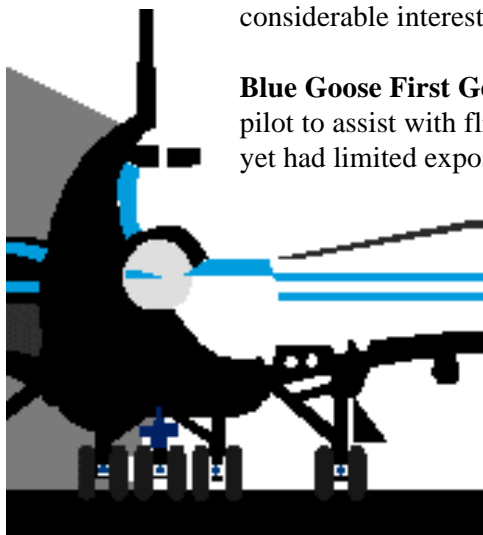
Parrott Family Scholarship – The Parrott Family offers this \$1,000 scholarship to be used over a one-year period for pilot training programs for students enrolled in the Rocky Mountain College (RMC) aviation program. The funds may be used for tuition in the RMC aviation program, and/or flight training expenses leading to a Private, Commercial, or Flight Instructor Certificate, and may include Instrument and Multiengine simulator training, and the purchase of aviation related materials and related supplies.

AOM Flight Training Scholarship – AOM has established this \$500 scholarship to financially assist a student pilot in obtaining their private pilot certificate.

Montana Pilots Association Junior Pilot Award – This recipient is chosen for outstanding interest in aviation, citizenship within their community and demonstrated academic achievement. The recipient must have soloed and be actively involved in flight training. This is a \$500 scholarship.

Montana Pilots Association Flight Training Award - This scholarship is open to a person who has a considerable interest in aviation. The \$500 scholarship is to be used for flight training.

Blue Goose First Generation Flight Scholarship – This \$250 scholarship is awarded to a first generation pilot to assist with flight training. This scholarship is designed to assist a person who has a love of aviation, yet had limited exposure to aviation, someone from a non-aviation background/family.



Soaring in Montana

By: Butch Pannage, Montana State SSA Representative

Montana soaring got off to a slow start in 2007, but ended in a flourish as two Montana soaring pilots set nine new state soaring records in August and September. The Soaring Society of America, under the guidance of the Federation Aeronautique Internationale (the world authority on soaring) has established a means of recognizing pilots for extraordinary soaring achievements.

Sterling Starr from Billings set three records flying his Rolladen-Schneider LS-6c on two separate occasions attaining official distances of over 200 miles and 275 miles. Actual miles flown were 223 and 299 miles.

Greg Mecklenburg from Bozeman set two records in his single-place Schempp-Hirth Ventus 2B and four in his two-place DG Flugzeugbau DG-505 Orion. Single place records included flights of over 208 and 251 miles. Actual miles flown were 286 and 311 miles. Flying his two-place glider with pilot Ursula Howland he attained a new altitude record in his class for the state of 17,687 feet and distance of over 150 miles. Flying with pilot Stan Palmer, he gained over 9,000 feet from point of release to highest altitude and flew nearly 200 miles.

In addition, four Montana Pilots participated in a Region 8 Soaring Contest at Ephrata Washington in July. See following article from Greg Mecklenburg.

For information on any aspect of soaring, please contact Montana State SSA representative Butch Pannage at e-mail bpannage@aol.com.

Montana Pilots Soaring to New Heights!

By: Greg Mecklenberg, Bozeman, MT

Montana is a very special place for soaring. And Bozeman has it all. Mountains, flat lands, ridge, wave, thermals, training and a full time tow pilot. There are no airspace problems like restricted areas to complicate things. Our soaring area is huge. Besides the smoke from the fires that seem to be plaguing us more each year, the only problem we really have is that there are not enough people to support the sport.

This summer I flew seven flights over the Beartooth/Absoraka Mountains. Two were officially over 300 miles long, and two others were just short of 300 miles. All of these flights were flown in a single place 15 meter glider. Four flights were submitted to OLC, a world wide glider competition. Each flight was included in the top ten of the world wide daily score sheets. Some of these flights qualified for Montana State records. Other flights were conducted over the Crazy Mountains, Belt Mountains, Little Belt Mountains, Elkhorn Mountains, Electric Peak, and Gravelly Mountains. Besides the single place flights, I flew two very special flights in a two place glider called a DG 505 Orion. Flown with crewmember, Stan Palmer, one of these flights was nearly 250 miles long and qualified officially for two Multi-place glider state records; a 195 mile triangle and an altitude gain of about 9,000 feet. The next day another special Multi-place flight was made in which two more state records were set; 1 for altitude of just under 18,000 (the legal limit unless you have a waiver to go higher) and a distance record of about 150 miles. This flight was done with another pilot, Ursula Howland, our extremely reliable tow pilot. If it were not for Ursula, none of these flights would be possible (except, of course the flight that she flew as a crew member. We found another tow pilot).

Four Montana glider pilots also competed at a Region 8 Soaring Contest at Ephrata Washington in July. They were Sterling Starr, Mike Garcia, Tim Martin and yours truly.



Late Summer Soaring in Montana!

NEXT MONTH

Big Sandy and Fort Benton get Credit Card Fuel Pumps

By: Mark Reichelt, Big Sandy

Big Sandy and Fort Benton Airports have completed the installation of credit card controlled aviation (100ll) gas pumps. This is a major convenience, not only for the local pilots who either had to travel off field in Big Sandy or make arraignments with the airport manager in Fort Benton to purchase fuel, but also for cross-country travelers who now have an option to make a fuel stop at a small, low traffic airport. This project was spearheaded and followed through by Big Sandy pilot Bill Sheets. Bill was able to secure a matching funds grant and low interest loan through the Montana Aeronautics Division of the Montana Department of Transportation to help fund the project. Bill said "without fuel your just an airstrip, but with fuel your are an airport." On behalf of all the pilots in Chouteau County I would like to thank Bill for all of his time, effort and resources he donated to make this project a reality.



Wayne (Stinky) Silvan fills up a Cherokee 140 at Big Sandy airport with the new credit card controlled gas pump.

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